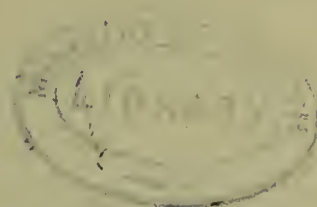


F O W E Y   B O R O U G H   C O U N C I L.

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the  
YEAR 1950.

---



J. G. S. TURNER.  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Fowey.

Lady and Gentlemen

I have the honour to present the annual report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1950.

For the second year in succession poliomyelitis has visited the town in epidemic form and a number of children have been left with residual paralyses. There is still no known practical preventive measure.

The state of immunisation of children in the town is about the lower level of safety and parents are urged to send or bring their children for protective immunisation.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Armstrong the Sanitary Inspector and to his staff for their co-operation and help. Thanks are due also to Mr. Gatley the Town Clerk and his Deputy and to Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest in support of efforts made to improve conditions.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Obedient Servant

J.G.S.Turner,

Medical Officer of Health.

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (In acres) ... ..	2,979
Population ... ..	2,198
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ..	768
Rateable Value ... ..	£18,112
Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£73. 2s. 6d.

				<u>Rate/1,000 Population.</u>	
				<u>Fowey.</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>		
Legitimate.	18	18	36	17.3	15.8
Illegitimate	2	0	2		
	(corrected for age distribution)			18.85	

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>		
Legitimate	0	1	1	.45	.37
Illegitimate	0	0	0		

<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>	13	24	37	16.85	11.6
(All causes).	(corrected for age distribution)			12.95	

				<u>Rate/1,000 Births.</u>	
				<u>Fowey.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS.</u>	Nil			0.0	.86

				<u>Rate/1,000 Live Births.</u>	
				<u>Fowey.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
<u>Deaths Under 1 Year of Age.</u>					
(Infant Mortality)					
Legitimate	2	0	2	52.6	29.8
Illegitimate	0	0	0		

<u>Deaths Under 2 Years of Age.</u>					
(Enteritis & Diarrhoea)					
	Nil			0.0	1.9

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following is a list of the causes of death in accordance with the Abbreviated List of the International List of 1948.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory. ....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other. ....	1	1	2
3. Syphilitic disease. ....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria ....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough. ....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections. ....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis ....	-	1	1
8. Measles. ....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases. ....	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach. ....	-	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus. ....	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast. ....	-	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus. ....	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms. 2	1	1	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia. ....	-	-	-
16. Diabetes. ....	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system. ....	1	3	4
18. Coronary disease, angina. ....	1	3	4
19. Hypertension with heart disease ....	-	1	1
20. Other heart disease ....	-	6	6
21. Other circulatory disease. ....	1	-	1
22. Influenza. ....	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia. ....	2	2	4
24. Bronchitis. ....	-	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system. ....	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. ....	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. ....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis. ....	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate. ....	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. ....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations. ....	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases. 2	2	2	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents. ....	-	-	-
34. All other accidents. ....	1	1	2
35. Suicide. ....	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war. ....	-	-	-
37. All causes. ....	<u>13</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>37.</u>

The following abbreviated table gives the percentage distribution of ages at death.

Age at Death.	Males.	Females.
0-1	15.4	0.0
1-59	23.1	25.0
60-69	15.4	25.0
70-79	30.7	20.8
80-89	15.4	25.0
90 and over.	0.0	4.2
All Ages.	100.0	100.0

Two deaths were due to accidents - both were due to falls. With the survival of the population to greater ages a large proportion of deaths are due to degenerative diseases and tumour growth.

The deaths in infants were due to prematurity and broncho-pneumonia and death took place at 5 hours and 3 months respectively.

SECTION A.

AREA. (In acres) 2,979. The district consists of the town of Fowey with a rural background. The town is a seaport ~~concerned~~ mainly with the export of China Clay. Some of the ships are ocean going cargo vessels.

POPULATION. The estimated increase in population since last year is estimated to be 22 persons. During the summer months there is a considerable increase which may amount to several thousands.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES. The number of inhabited houses is 768. The rateable value is £18,112 with a Penny Rate of £73 2s. 6d.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1951. The rainfall for the year was 48.31" this being the highest amount recorded since 1912. The previous highest year was 1946 with 47.97". The annual average is 36.07". Rain was recorded on 210 days compared with the annual average of 185 days, and the highest record of 217 days in 1912

The mean temperature for the summer months May - August was 55.6° F being 2° F below the average. The warmest month was August with a mean day temperature of 66.7° F and a night temperature of 55.4° F. The warmest day was in June when a temperature of 76° F was recorded.



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

- a. Medical Officer of Health. J. Turner. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
1st February, 1950 - 31st December, 1950.
2. Sanitary Inspector. (Part Time)  
J. W. Armstrong, A.R.S.I.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. All investigations were carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where material for investigation is sent.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN. A supply of antitoxin is maintained at the Health Area Office, St. Austell and is obtainable by Medical Practitioners on request.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The ambulance service is provided from the main centre at St. Austell but Fowey possesses its own ambulance and this operates in the evenings and at weekends. Thanks are due to the St. John Brigade for their service and co-operation throughout the year. Thanks are due also to Mrs. Batchelor the Organiser of the Hospital Car Service and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provided car transport at all times on request.

NURSING IN THE HOME. The establishment of nurses for the area is one Health Visitor - Nurse - Midwife.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. It has not yet been possible to provide a Clinic centre.

HOSPITALS. The Town has a small hospital consisting of thirteen beds and one cot. Patients requiring specialised care are sent to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. Maternity cases go to Redruth.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE. The establishment was increased during the year to two full time Home Helps. A total of 26 persons were aided of whom 8 were maternity cases. Thanks are due to Mrs. Dando and to Mr. Gatley for their administration of this service.

AFTER CARE. There were no persons in receipt of after care.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER. There was no shortage during the year owing to the abnormal heavy rains. The supply is collected mainly from surface springs and is dependent on recent rainfall.

Practically the whole area has a main supply available and 708 properties are connected. Of the remainder, 22 in number are situated at Polkerris with a small private supply available, and 11 at Polmear with a well and pump supply. The St. Austell Urban District Council main is available at Polmear and 3 houses take their supplies from this source. At Hambland a well with a pump supplies the five houses. Elsewhere there are 8 farms and 5 cottages with a variety of supplies.

Most of the main supply is chlorinated. It is considered that owing to the nature of the sources all the supply should be chlorinated.

Five samples of water sent to the laboratory gave satisfactory results.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The main drainage of the town discharges by several outfall sewers into the deep water channel of the Fowey river. Owing to silting of the outlets there had been considerable trouble and choking of sewers. There was no complaint of sewerage being washed back on to the beaches. Fourteen visits were paid on drainage problems to various properties.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The whole of the built up area is regularly scavenged and in some districts this is carried out daily.

Town refuse was collected twice weekly but in the rural areas and in farms and outlying cottages the collection was fortnightly and monthly respectively.

Refuse is deposited at a dump at the Borough Boundary.



DISINFECTION. Six premises were fumigated after cases of infectious diseases.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION A regular survey is made for rodent infestations and for the nine months ending on Dec. 31st . 101 properties were visited. These required 149 inspections and 21 minor infestations with rats and 3 of mice were dealt with.

Routine attention was given to the sewers, allotments and refuse dump.

NUISANCES. Twenty-one nuisances and complaints were investigated and remedied as a result of informal action.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. There are seven public conveniences serving the district and one which is still being built.

## SECTION D.

## HOUSING.

There is still a most serious shortage of houses with an active waiting list of 138 families, details of which are as follows :-

(1)	Number without separate homes.	28
(11)	Number of unmarried persons	5
(111)	Number of persons with separate homes which are	
	(a) Unfit	4
	(b) Overcrowded.	7
(1V)	Number requiring houses for other reasons, e.g. nearer work, notice to quit, etc.	25
(V)	Number from other districts who wish to live in the Borough.	69

The classification of houses required is as follows :-

One bedroom type	6
Two       "       "	93
Three     "       "	37
Four, etc. bedroom type.	2

The Council now own 111 permanent houses and 22 temporary dwellings. During 1950 eight flats, four houses and three bungalows all of the two bedroom type were erected, and in addition one house was built by private licence.

It is proposed to develop the Green Lane site when present sites are completed.

## SECTION E.

### FOOD.

MILK. There are two retailers who are not producers and two retailers who are also producers. The major supply is pasteurised at Lostwith but is bottled locally and is sold without designation.

Six visits were made to the two premises and four reports of dirty milk bottles investigated.

FOOD. The town meat supply is obtained from the Central Slaughter House at St. Austell. Ten visits were made to various food shops and some improvements effected although much more remains to be done. Twenty visits were made to hotels and cafes where much has been done to improve kitchen hygiene. Generally it is found that attempts have been made to economise on cooking and working space in order to accommodate more customers.

The following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Hake	6 Stone.	Tripe	106 lbs.
Cheese	52 lbs.	Fondant	28 lbs.
Plums	24 lbs.	Ham.	19½ lbs.
Apricots	10 lbs.		

Three visits were made to the premises where ice cream is manufactured. Fifteen samples were forwarded to the analyst with the following results :-

Grade 1	-	1
" 2	-	6
" 3	-	5
" 4	-	3

These results cannot be regarded as satisfactory but the fault lies mainly in the methods of serving.

The one bakehouse in the town is well maintained and is reasonably clean.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received :-

Disease.	Number of Cases	Rate/1,000 Population Fowey England & Wales.		
		1949	1950	1950
Scarlet Fever	1	0.92	0.45	1.50
Typhoid	1	0.00	0.45	0.00
Whooping Cough	2	0.00	0.91	3.60
Measles.	1	45.50	0.45	8.39
Poliomyelitis				
(a) Paralytic	11	) 3.68	5.01	0.13
(b) Non-paralytic	4		1.82	0.05
Influenza	1	0.00	0.45	-

The single case of typhoid occurred in a sea-faring man and the place of infection was traced to a lodging house in Bristol

The outstanding event was the outbreak of Poliomyelitis for the second year in succession. The following table gives the dates of onset of cases in both years.

1949

August 5th                      4 cases.  
August 8th                      1 case.  
August 20th & 22nd          1 case each.  
September 12th                1 case.

1950.

September 12th & 15th      1 case each.  
October 1st                    1 case.  
October 6th                    2 cases.  
October 22nd and 23rd      1 case each.  
October 25th                   2 cases.  
October 27th                   2 cases.  
October 28th & 30th        1 case each.  
November 4th & 8th        1 case each.

The age distribution of cases was as follows:-

Age	1949	1950.
Under 3 years	0	2
3 - 5	5	6
6 - 9	1	3
10 -14	0	3
15 years and over.	2	2

The distribution of cases over the town was in both years roughl proportional to the number of children at risk in the various areas. Multiple cases in the same family occurred once in 1949 and twice in 1950. In one family a member was affected in 1949 and the other two members in 1950. These two were exposed to infection in 1949 and were thought to have had abortive infections. One house was affected in 1949 and again in 1950 but the families occupying the house were different. In 1949 and again in 1950 early cases were young. Adult cases were late and two of the three adults affected died.

The case which probably initiated the outbreak in 1950 fell sick in London a few days after leaving Fowey. This child was thought to have had contacts with persons who had been recently to the Isle of Wight where an outbreak was in progress. The second case, a playmate of the first probably introduced the infection to her classmates at school and it is thought that the subsequent history pointed to the school as the focus from which infection was spread either directly or indirectly, to those below and above school age. The head teacher of the boys school who was also in charge of the canteen was affected. A special investigation by the school doctor in December 1950 failed to reveal any minor defects which might have been attributed to missed cases.

The outbreak in 1949 occurred during the school holiday except for the last case which was in an adult. The outbreak in 1949 was explosive in onset and occurred mainly in children below school age. It is thought that these factors determined its shorter course.

The sanitation in the infants and junior girls school was not satisfactory. Handwashing facilities were not good and communal towels were in use. The school canteen was also unsatisfactory and washing up technique poor.



Drinking water as a source of infection can be excluded as there are three separate systems, two of which are chlorinated. Cases occurred in the supply areas of all systems as well as in houses supplied by spring water.

The main milk supply in Fowey is pasteurised at Lostwithiel, is bottled locally and sold without designation. The milk supply in most cases came from this source but four cases had supplies from different farms.

It is generally supposed that an outbreak of clinically diagnosed poliomyelitis is accompanied by a silent outbreak in which ten to fifty persons harbour the virus for each diagnosed case.

It is possible to reconcile this view with the 1949 and 1950 outbreaks only on the assumption that the virus was different and that there was little or no cross immunity. Alternatively, the spread of the disease may be less extensive than is supposed and in 1949 the holiday time may have limited the opportunity for spread.

Two attempts were made by Dr. MacCullum of the National Laboratory Service to isolate virus from sewerage but without success.

I have come to the conclusion that the 1950 outbreak was related to the junior girls and infants schools and that closure in the early stage might have limited spread. The method of spread was probably slow hand to hand infection from infected objects, coupled with defective personal hygiene.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

#### IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO THE CHILD POPULATION.

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria up to 31st December, 1950:--



Age at 31.12.50. i.e. born in year.	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1941-45	1936-40	Total Under 15
Number Immunised.	0	11	27	22	12	16	4	92
Estimated Mid-year child population.50.	<u>Children Under Five</u>				<u>Children 5-14</u>			
	159				233			
Percentage.	45.3%				8.6%			
					392			
					23.4%			

The position is not quite so unsatisfactory as these figures would indicate as according to the district nurse 66% of children aged 15 months to 5 years are immunised and 90% of school children have been immunised at some time in the past. Owing to the outbreaks of poliomyelitis in 1949 and 1950 and the presumed increased liability to infection there has been a tendency to avoid immunisation.

The degree of protection in infants is now at the lower level of safety and even in school children there is danger of the spread of diphtheria though the disease in them might be milder than in an unprotected community.

It is to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail and that immunisation will once again be widely acceptable.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of cases and deaths for 1950.

<u>Age Groups.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 1 Year								
1 - 4 years.								
5 - 9 "			1				1	
10 - 14 "		1						
15 - 19 "								
20 - 24 "								
25 - 34 "	1							
35 - 44 "					1			
45 - 54 "								
55 - 64 "								
65 - 74 "								
over 75 "								
Totals.	1	1	1		1		1	

There were a total of 9 cases on the tuberculosis register at the end of the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	11	12	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	13	14	-	-

Number of cases in  
which defects were  
found.

Number of cases  
in which  
prosecutions  
were instituted.

Particulars. Found. Remedied. Referred  
To H.M. Inspector. By H.M. Inspector

Want of  
Cleanliness  
(S.1.)

- - - - -

Overcrowding (S.2) -

- - - - -

Unreasonable  
Temperature (S.3) -

- - - - -

Inadequate  
Ventilation (S.4) -

- - - - -

Ineffective drain-  
age of Floors (S.6) -

- - - - -

Sanitary Conveni-  
ences (S.7)

(a) insufficient 1 1  
(b) unsuitable or  
defective - -  
(c) not separate  
for sexes - -

- - - - -  
- - - - -  
- - - - -

Other offences  
against the Act  
(not including  
offences relating  
to Outwork)

- - - - -

Total 1. 1 - - -



